

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

NEW NORTH VANCOUVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GOING GREEN

NORTH VANCOUVER – A new \$11.8-million elementary school showcasing progressive environmental features will be built in North Vancouver, West Vancouver-Capilano MLA Ralph Sultan announced today.

“The green design of the new Highlands elementary school focuses on energy conservation, the use of renewable, recyclable materials and increased green space,” said Sultan. “This is a great example to set for students: that we can build and grow, while still respecting our natural environment.”

The new, two-storey building will be built beside the existing school, a location that will reduce the building footprint while maximizing space for outdoor playing fields. Specific highlights of the environmentally friendly school design include:

- Floors made of recyclable materials, including linseed oil, wood flour, rosin and jute, which give off lower emissions and promote improved indoor air quality.
- Motion detectors that will automatically shut down the outdoor air supply when there are no students or staff in a room, saving energy and money.
- Large openings into classrooms as well as interior windows, to reduce artificial light.
- A natural ventilation system, which is the most efficient method of delivering clean air and improving comfort for students in the classrooms.
- Use of native plants, including bog rosemary, western blue iris and evergreen huckleberry and use of drought resistant plants in exposed areas such as the redwig dogwood. In addition, 13 existing trees will be transplanted.

The environmentally friendly design of Highlands elementary supports the Province’s goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020.

“The new Highlands elementary school will provide a safe, environmentally friendly place for students to achieve their best in education,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “Our government is committed to environmental responsibility and is working to ensure that all new schools are green buildings.”

Currently, the school is at maximum capacity, and enrolment is projected to increase over the next three years. The new Highlands elementary school will increase its capacity to accommodate 80 kindergarten and 350 elementary students. The school will be ready for students in January 2009.

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Since 2001, the Province has invested over \$31 million in school capital projects in the North Vancouver school district, including nine additions, the \$4.6-million replacement of Lynn Valley elementary and the \$7.2-million renovation and seismic upgrade of Windsor secondary in 2005.

During the same time, the Province has spent over \$1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovation projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across British Columbia.

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